

Application No. 10/053,931
Amendment dated May 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of Claim 8, A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:

making a posterior incision; and

preparing the femur to receive the femoral stem through said posterior incision, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a posterior incision substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim 8, A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:

making a posterior incision; and

preparing the femur to receive the femoral stem through said posterior incision, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of Claim 8, A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:

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making a posterior incision; and
preparing the femur to receive the femoral stem through said posterior incision,
wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 8, further comprising the following steps prior to said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision:~~
A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:

making a posterior incision;
performing a blunt dissection to provide an access through said posterior incision to expose ~~said femoral~~ a shaft of said femur; and
inserting a retractor into said access, said retractor comprising a tunnel ~~size~~ sized for insertion through said access~~[,]~~; and

preparing the femur to receive the femoral stem through said posterior incision,
wherein said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision comprises the step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said retractor.